

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1. Claims 1-4 remain pending. In the pending Office Action, claims 1, 3, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Dempo. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Dempo. The Examiner alleges that the differences between the prior art and the claimed invention, as stated in Applicants' prior arguments, are not present in the claims when the claims are given their broadest reasonable interpretation.

Applicants' prior arguments include the following:

[A]n AAL2 switcher can be connected to the ATM switching network without requiring a recognition of all VPI/VCI possibilities in the AAL2 switcher, saving memory space.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the AAL2 switcher is connected to the switching network without requiring recognition of all VPI/VCI bits in the AAL2 switcher, and that the microprocessor limits the number of bits representing VPI/VCI bits from among VPI/VCI bits transmitted in a header of ATM cells that are to be interpreted. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found in the original disclosure in Figure 1, at page 4, lines 19-20, and from page 8, line 20 through page 9, line 5. Neither Dempo, nor any of the prior art of record, teaches or suggests an AAL2 switcher connected to a switching network without requiring recognition of all VPI/VCI bits in the AAL2 switcher, or a microprocessor limiting the number of bits representing VPI/VCI bits from among VPI/VCI bits transmitted in a header of ATM cells that are to be interpreted. Thus claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the art of record. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is

determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 449122029900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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